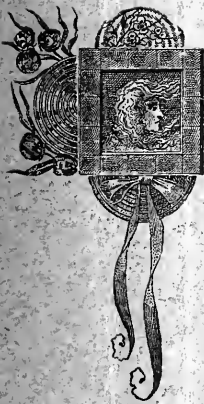


MINUTES
OF THE
Twelfth Annual Session
OF THE
Florence Baptist
Association.



HELD WITH
Union Grove Baptist Church,
Lauderdale County, Ala.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 11, 12, 13, '99

H. C. GILBERT, Moderator, - - Florence.

O. F. HUCKABA, Clerk and Treas. Waterloo.

Next Session will be held with LIBERTY Church, (Theet P. O.),
beginning Friday before the Second Sunday in August, 1900.
Introductory Sermon by F. G. POSEY. Alternate, R. HALL.

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Florence Baptist Association



FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 11, 1899



Association met with Union Grove church, Lauderdale County, Ala., at 11 a.m. Friday, August 11, 1899. The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. O. A. Pace of Russellville: Text, I Cor. 16:13. Adjourned for dinner which was spread on the ground in abundance.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association was called to order by Bro. H. C. Gilbert of Florence, who on motion was elected Moderator, and on motion O. F. Huckaba was elected clerk. The roll of churches having been called and the following messengers names enrolled:

BRUSH CREEK, Joe. Wesson,

FLORENCE, Richard Hall, Eli Joness. H. C. Gilbert, Misses Maud Evans and Lillian Kerby.

LIBERTY, C. S. W. Paulk, R. E. Paulk, Jas. R. Austin.

MARTINDALE, J. A. Weems.

UNION GROVE, B. G. Gray, Cassander Urban, Ham McMurry, John English, and Sister Wilcoxson.

The following visiting brethren accepted seats with us; A. J. Ivie (Moderator), Revs. Mack Stamps and T. L. Henden of Colbert As-

sociation; Rev. J. O. A. Pace of Muscle Shoals Association; Rev. W. B. Crumpton, Cor. Sec'y S. B. of M., Revs. F. G. Percy, B. F. Wilson and C. C. Winters of Indian Creek (Tenn.) Association.

Moderator appointed the following committees:

Devotional, F. G. Posey, B. G. Gray, John English; Finance, C. S. W. Paulk, B. G. Gray, Joe. Wesson; Articles of Faith, W. B. Crumpton, B. F. Stamps.

T. F. Henden was appointed to preach at night. Adjourned.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

After devotional exercises by R. Hall, committee appointed at last session to confer with Colbert Association reported advising that we continue our present organization.

The following reports were made on Missions:

MISSIONS

ASSOCIATION

Associational Missions: C. S. W. Paulk reported that we have had no Associational Missionary. Brush Creek church sent up \$10 for this work. Executive Committee was authorized to confer with Cor. Sec'y W. B. Crumpton and adopt measures to secure an Associational Missionary.

FOREIGN MISSIONS Report was read by Mack Stamps, to-wit: "Go ye unto all the world' is just as strong a command as the command is to baptize. The great brotherhood has realized this in that they have greatly enlarged the work and it becomes us that we feel the weight of this and set ourselves to assist in this great work of the Master, both by giving of our means and by enlightening the people on the great need of the mission fields. Let us send our contributions to R. J. Willingham, Secretary, Richmond, Va."

Discussed by Rev. Mack Stamps, and adopted.

STATE MISSIONS This report was read by R. Hall, to-wit: "We your committee, on State Missions beg to report as follows: The lifting of the debt, \$27,000 resting upon the State Board of Missions, is a matter of deep thankfulness and congratulation to all lovers of the Baptist cause in Alabama. Our denomination numbers 120,000 and leads all others in this state, but if this lead is to be maintained, our state mission work must receive better support than in the past. There is especial need for vigorous work in the new cotton manufac-

turing towns which are springing up in various parts of our state. The people who come into these new towns are many, probably the majority of them, Baptists, but are too poor or indifferent to establish and support churches that can successfully compete with other denominations. Florence, Sheffield, and in Decatur two churches were established, and along with Tuscumbia, have until recently been largely maintained by the State Board of Missions. We earnestly hope that our people will realize the value of work done by our Board and give to it a hearty and liberal support."

HOME MISSIONS This report was read by W. B. Crumpton, chairman: "The Home Mission Board is located at Atlanta, Ga. Rev. F. H. Kerfoot, Secretary. Its field is in the Southern states and the Island of Cuba. It operates mainly in the large cities, among the Indians, the Negroes, and Cubans. It has also a church building fund which is used to assist struggling churches in the erection of houses of worship. The Board deserves the prayers and contributions of the churches.

Your committee would recommend that monthly collections be taken in the churches for missions."

All these reports were discussed together, by B. F. Wilson, J. O. A. Pace, W. B. Crumpton. C. S. W. Paulk, T. F. Henden, R. Hall, and then adopted.

The following committee was appointed to prepare a plan of work and report this afternoon: Brethren Hall, Paulk, Weems, Wesson, Gray, Huckaba. Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION

After devotional exercises conducted by C. C. Winters, Rev. R. Hall read the report of committee on plan of collection, as follows: "Your committee appointed to report on the best means of collecting money for the support of the churches and for missions, recommend the adoption of the monthly envelope system. Printed envelopes for this purpose can be obtained from the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., if desired."

RICHARD HALL, Florence,
J. A. WEEMS, Martindale,
O. F. HUCKABA, Waterloo.

C. S. W. PAULK, Liberty,
B. G. GRAY, Union Grove,

The above was discussed by brethren Crumpton, M. Stamps, and Winters. Adopted.

TEMPERANCE R. E. Paulk, chairman read the report of the committee on Temperance, to-wit: "We your committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report. The Bible enjoins temperance in all things. This does not refer to things that are evil for we are to AVOID the very appearance of evil. We regard the use of intoxicating liquors as an evil that we should use every laudable effort to discourage. Therefore we recommend, that this Association declare its uncompromising opposition to the sale or use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage."

The report was discussed by Brethren R. E. Paulk, Posey, Gilbert, and adopted.

SCHOOLS The committee made the following report on DENOMINATIONAL inational schools. W. B. Crumpton, chairman: "The Baptist of Alabama are blessed with two good schools, the Howard, at East Lake near Birmingham, F. M. Roof, President, for their boys, and the Judson Institute, R. G. Patrick, President, at Marion for their girls. The property of these schools belongs to the Baptist State Convention and the trustees are appointed by that body.

At the Howard, young men who give evidence of a call to the ministry, receive their tuition free and if they are unable to pay their board some assistance may be received from the Ministerial Educational Board at East Lake.

These schools are worthy of our patronage, and their claims should be considered seriously by parents before deciding where to send their children.

Until recently our schools have been struggling with burdensome debts; but now they rejoice in being entirely clear of debt and prepared to do better work than ever before."

Discussed by brethren Crumpton, Gilbert, B. F. Stamps. Winters, and adopted.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE The following report was read by brother Hall, on Religious Literature, to-wit: "The influence of good literature in the formation of habits of thought and life can hardly be over-estimated. Especially is this true of Religious Literature. If our people are to be Missionary Baptists in real-

ity as well as in name, there must be a larger use of our denominational literature. Reading must be added to preaching and Sunday School work, if we are to have intelligent christian activity. With this in view, we heartily commend the ALABAMA BAPTIST published at Montgomery, Ala., as a suitable religious paper to go into our homes; the Conventional series published by the Sunday School Board, at Nashville, Tenn., for Sunday Schools; the Foreign Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va., and our Home Field, published at Atlanta, Ga., as good mission literature which ought to be read by all our people."

Discussed by brethren Hall, Crumpton, Winters, and adopted.

B. Y. P. U. The report on the Baptist Young Peoples Union by brother Henden was made as follows, to-wit:

"The B. Y. P. U. has become an important factor in the development and advancement of our Master's work in our beloved land. It is a means of educational and missionary development. The Sixth Annual Convention has just been held at Woodland, Ala. An increase of interest was manifested on the part of the Young People at this convention. We recommend that as far as possible, every pastor organize a B. Y. P. U. in his church. We believe that the time has come when our young people are becoming leaders in our denomination, and by this organization our young people are brought closer together and methods are discussed which will result in great good. 'In union there is strength.'"

Discussed by bother Henden, and adopted.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

We your committee appointed to prepare Articles of Faith, submit the following. In as much as we have not at hand the minutes of the first session of this Association and there seems to be a doubt in the minds of some as to whether a confession of faith has ever been formally adopted by this Association; Therefore be it resolved:

FIRST—That we adopt the Articles of Faith commonly known as the New Hampshire Confession, found in Pendleton's Church Manual, as the Articles of Faith of this Association.

SECOND—That the Clerk be instructed to print the same in our minutes with the following introduction:

While we, with all Baptists, take the Scriptures of the Old and

New Testament for our rule and faith and practice, because many have perverted the Word of God, we deem it wise to set forth in few words what we conceive to be the fundamental doctrines contained in the Bible in the following confession of our faith: (See Articles of Faith)

THIRD—That a committee of three be appointed to prepare suitable rules of decorum and report at next meeting.

FOURTH—That the Clerk is instructed to collect a file of the minutes, and have them on hand at each session of this body.

W. B. CRUMPTON,
B. F. STAMPE.

The report was adopted.

This report was read by Rev. F. G. Posey.

OBITUARIES There have been the following deaths since our last meeting: W. F. Threet and Joshua Paulk, of Liberty; A. J. McElvy of Union Grove; A. J. Rayborn, of Brush Creek; These have been garnered in as ripe sheaves of the harvest. Thus we are notified of the uncertainty of life, and the CERTAINTY of death, and we are made to ask the question, who will be next? Adopted.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS This report was made by brother Ivie on Sunday Schools, to-wit: "In our most progressive churches, this is considered one of the necessary agencies, and an indispensable department of church work. To familiarize our people with the scriptures, and the distinctive doctrines of our church is an obligation that is laid upon every Baptist with means within reach of the poorest. This is made possible as our Sunday-school Board which is located at Nashville, is publishing all the literature necessary to carry on this work. Other denominations recognizing this fact are leaving no stone unturned along this line. Candor compels me to say that such is not the case with the Baptists: Of the letters read at this meeting only two report Sunday-schools. This ought not to be. Let us as soldiers of the Cross, gather up the material in our communities and endeavor to train them for greater usefulness in the world than we ourselves have been."

Discussed by brother Ivie, and adopted.

WOMAN'S WORK The following report was made on Woman's Work, and read by Bro. Gilbert: "We believe that woman has a special work to do in the church of Christ.

Since christianity has done so much for her, she should be allowed the privilege of showing her appreciation of its benefits. We believe that woman's work is telling for more good to-day than ever before in the world. We have no statistics at our command but feel confident our statement would be sustained by them. Respectfully,

LILLIAN KERBY.

MAUD EVANS.

Discussed by Bro. Gilbert, and adopted.

Brethren Hall, Posey and B. F. Stamps were appointed a committee to prepare Rules of Decorum for this Association and report at next session.

The following committee was appointed to report to-morrow on time and place of next session: C. S. W. Paulk, Hall, Gray and Weems. They reported Liberty church, Threet, P. O., as the place and Friday before the second Sunday in August 1900, as the time, for next session; F. G. Posey to preach the introductory sermon, R. Hall, alternate.

By a rising vote the Association tendered its thanks to the church and community for their hospitality. Adjourned.

SUNDAY MORNING

After devotional exercises conducted by B. F. Stamps a Sunday School mass meeting was addressed at 10 a.m., by Brethren Gilbert, Hall, Pace, B. F. Stamps and Crumpton.

At eleven a.m., Brother Crumpton preached from Ps. 1:8. After which a collection amounting to \$4.25 was taken for missions.

Adjourned to meet with Liberty church, Friday before the second Sunday in August. 1900.

O. F. HUCKABA, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. **THE SCRIPTURES:**—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

II. **THE TRUE GOD:**—We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. **THE FALL OF MAN:**—We believe the Scriptures teach that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God; positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. **GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE:**—We believe the Scriptures teach that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

V. **THE WAY OF SALVATION:**—We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who according to the will of the Father, assumed our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law, and by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour.

VI. OF REGENERATION:—We believe the Scriptures teach that Regeneration, or the new birth, is that change wrought in the soul by the Holy Spirit, by which a new nature and a spiritual life, not before possessed, are imparted, and the person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus; a holy disposition is given to the mind, the will subdued, the dominion of sin broken and the affections changed from a love of sin and self, to a love of heaven and God; the change is instantaneous, effected solely by the power of God, in a manner incomprehensible to reason, the evidence of it is found in a changed disposition of mind, the fruits of righteousness, and a newness of life, and without it salvation is impossible.

VII. OF REPENTANCE:—We believe the Scriptures teach that Repentance is a personal act, prompted by the Spirit, and consists in a godly sorrow for sin, as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; that it is accompanied with great humiliation in view of one's sin and guilt, together with prayer for pardon; also by sincere hatred of sin, and a persistent turning away from and abandonment of, all that is evil and unholy. Since none are sinless in this life, repentance needs to be often repeated.

VIII. OF FAITH.—We believe the Scriptures teach that Faith, as an evangelical grace wrought by the Spirit, is the medium through which Christ is received by the soul as its sacrifice and Saviour. It is an assent of the mind and a consent of the heart, consisting mainly of belief and trust; the testimony of God is implicitly accepted and believed as true, while Christ is unreservedly trusted for salvation; by it the believer is brought into vital relations with God, freely justified, and lives as seeing Him who is invisible. Faith cannot save, but it reveals Christ to the soul as a willing and sufficient Saviour, and commits the heart and life to Him.

IX. OF JUSTIFICATION:—We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness, that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

X. OF ADOPTION:—We believe the Scriptures teach that Adoption is a gracious act, by which the Father, for the sake of Christ, accepts believers to the estate and condition of children, by a new and spiritual birth; sending the Spirit of adoption into their hearts, whereby they become members of the family of God, and entitled to all the rights, privileges and promises of Children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, to the heritage of the saints on earth, and an inheritance reserved in heaven for them.

XI. OF SANCTIFICATION:—We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence

and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self examination, self denial, watchfulness and prayer, and in the practice of godly exercises and duties.

XII. THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS:—We believe the Scriptures teach that such as are truly regenerate, being born of the Spirit, will not utterly fall away and finally perish, but will endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XIII. THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL:—We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts arises entirely from their sinful nature; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIV. A GOSPEL CHURCH:—We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word, that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XV. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM:—We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Christ, into the name of the Father and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth, in solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life, that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper.

XVI. THE LORD'S SUPPER:—We believe that the Scriptures teach that the Lord's Supper is a provision of bread and wine, as symbols of Christ's body and blood, partaken of by members of the church, in commemoration of the sufferings and death of their Lord; showing their faith and participation in the merits of His sacrifice, and their hope of eternal life through His resurrection from the dead; its observance to be preceded by faithful self-examination.

XVII. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH:—We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor, except works of mercy and necessity, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVIII. CIVIL GOVERNMENT:—We believe the Scriptures teach that Civil

Government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. But that civil rulers have no rights of control over, or of interference with religious matters.

XIX. RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED:—We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our Lord, are truly righteous in His esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are, in His sight, wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in this life and after death.

XX. THE WORLD TO COME:—We believe the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the Last Day, Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless sorrow, and the righteous to endless joy; and this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.



STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 1900.

EXECUTIVE—R. Hall, J. G. Ashcraft, B. G. Gray, Joe. Wesson
Dr. L. F. Duckett, C. S. W. Paulk, H. C. Gilbert, O. F. Huckaba

TEMPERANCE—John T. Ashcraft, B. G. Gray.

OBITUARIES—John L. Austin, Joe. Wesson.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS—C. S. W. Paulk, John English.

STATE MISSIONS—R. Hall, L. D. Rutledge.

FOREIGN MISSIONS—F. G. Posey, J. R. Austin.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—O. F. Huckaba, D. L. Garrett.

WOMANS WORK—Mrs. D. F. Duckett, Mrs. B. G. Eastburn.

B. Y. P. U.—R. E. Paulk, Boyce Broadus.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE AND EDUCATION—L. D. Rutledge, R. Hall.

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1898-9.

Name of Church	Increase		Decrease		Number last year	Present Membership	Officers, Teachers	S. S. Pupils	Value of Church Property	State Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Salaries and Expenses	Sunday-schools Contribution	Woman's Aid Society	Benevolence	Minutes	Total Contributions
	Baptism	Letter	Restoration	Letters														
Florence.....	1	1	2	1	230	208	10	100	\$2500 00	\$10 35	2 35	5 77	\$ 610 70	65 57	\$ 69 58	3 00	5 00	\$ 792 92
East Florence.....	1	1	2	1	101	103	3	112	500 00	30 00	1 50	4 50	137 55	23 55	54 30	7 40	5 00	85 85
Liberty.....	1	2	1	1	61	77	9	10	50 00	4 25	.....	.....	12 00	1 35	.....	.....	5 00	182 90
Union Grove.....	14	.....	.....	.....	10	12	.....	.....	100 00	.....	.....	.....	7 00	.....	.....	.....	1 00	16 85
Martindale.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 00
*Brush Creek.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	14	1	2	3	395	404	24	262	3650 00	43 02	6 85	10 27	797 25	90 47	124 58	10 40	11 55	1086 52

* Brush Creek church sent up a pledge of \$10.00 for Associational Missions.

† Florence and Liberty ~~was~~ without pastors for the first half of the Associational year.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Churches	Pastors	Post Office	Clerks	Post Office	Meeting Day
Florence.....	Richard Hall.....	Florence.....	A. B. Mason.....	Florence.....	B. S.
Liberty.....	B. F. Stamps.....	Cloverdale.....	John Q. Austin.....	Three.....	Fourth S
Union Grove.....	F. G. Posey.....	Lexington.....	Cassander Urban.....	Atlas.....	Second S
Martindale.....	J. B. Mortindale.....	Rogersville.....	E. J. Baggett.....	Rogersville.....	First S
Brush Creek.....	.....	.....	P. W. Wright.....	Wright.....	.....

ORDER OF BUSINESS. ▲ ▲



1. Call to order.
2. Devotional Exercises.
3. Reading of Church Letters.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Admission of New Churches.
6. Receiving Visitors and Correspondents.
7. Annual Sermon.
8. Appointment of the following Committees, (others if necessary:—(a) Devotional; (b) Finance.
9. Reading the Constitution.
10. Reports of Standing and Other Committees:—(a) Obituaries
[b] Temperance; [c] Missions—Associational, State, Home, Foreign;
[d] Sunday-school; [e] Woman's Work; [f] Executive; [g] Finance.
11. Treasurer's Report.
12. Selecting time and place of next meeting.
13. Election of Delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
14. Appointment of Corresponding Delegates.
15. Election of Preacher to Deliver Next Annual Sermon.
16. Resolutions of Courtesy and Miscellaneous Business.
17. Adjournment,